Talking Points
NATIONAL SCIENCE EDUCATION ACTS (NSEA)

(To be introduced by Vernon Ehlers and others)

National Science Education Act

√ Provides funds for Master Teachers who, through professional development and support for utilization of hands-on inquiry materials, will lead groups of science, math, engineering or technology teachers in grades K-8.

√ Improves educational technology by creating a competition for high school and college students to develop educational software.

√ Identifies the best K-12 science, math, engineering and technology educational programs across the Nation.

√ Encourages private sector contributions to and involvement with the information technology programs in the neediest high schools.

√ Assists high school students in the pursuit of careers as science, math, engineering or technology teachers by informing them of the high school courses they should complete to prepare for the courses they will need in college.

√ Strengthens the use of technology in the classroom by investigating what techniques and methods are most effective.

√ Supports teachers with a program for professional development in technology use and integration.

√ Empowers middle school students to become technology-literate by ensuring that their teachers are provided the necessary training.

√ Promotes private sector involvement in science, math, engineering and technology education by linking participants with each other and distributing best practices.

√ Bolsters rural educational opportunities by encouraging distance learning components to science, math, technology and engineering education programs.

√ Increases teachers' access to cutting-edge education programs by posting NSF-sponsored programs on the NSF Internet web site.

√ Rewards teacher participation in science, math, engineering or technology research.

National Science Education Enhancement Act

√ Reinforces the induction process by providing mentors to novice teachers.

- √ Expands teacher access to quality math, science, engineering and technology programs by improving the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse.

- √ Supports teachers through quality summer professional development programs.

- √ Upgrades the capabilities of teachers by providing needed technology training instructional materials.

- √ Widens children's opportunities to experience science first-hand by creating after-school science day care programs.

- √ Benefits college students by allowing Work-Study credit for training or tutoring K-12 teachers to use technology in the classroom.

National Science Education Incentive Act

- √ Eases the financial burden for new science, math, engineering and technology K-12 teachers by providing a tax credit to help pay off student loans.

- √ Spurs private sector contributions of science, math, engineering and technology equipment.

- √ Enlarges students' access to workforce training by encouraging the private sector to provide instruction in grades K-12.

- √ Affords teachers learning opportunities and practical experience through Externships.

- √ Augments availability of practical professional development for teachers with access to workforce training.